

MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN

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MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN

EDITED BY

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VOL. 1, No. 5
FEBRUARY, 1916

THE SOCIAL MEMORY¹

The social function of a society like that under whose auspices we meet this evening is coming to be more consciously defined. An organizing and directing purpose, a conviction of opportunity and obligation are as necessary in this as in other undertakings. The collecting of books and other records, the pursuit of genealogies, the gathering of personal reminiscences may easily become desultory and aimless unless all is done in accordance with a recognized duty, a well-considered program, and a consistent plan. Let us consider briefly the place and duty of an historical society in our social order.

We are tempted when we seek to give meaning to any kind of activity to resort to metaphor and analogy. Thus human speech is full of fossil poetry. The simile-making habits of mankind have dealt with societies and nations. Polybius asserted that a whole people passes from youth, through manhood, to old age and death. Hobbes saw in society a huge creature made up of a multitude of men. Spencer traced in minute detail the analogy between an animal body and the social organism. Washington has given us a mechanical figure. "A Federal Government," he said, "is the main-spring which keeps the clock of the States going." Of late, philosophers have pushed the likeness into the psychic field. Such phrases as "the public mind," "the popular will," suggest a parallel between society and personality. Thus a society becomes a vast ongoing common life with habits, memories, character, and purpose.

A state or nation, looked at in this way, has a tradition, a history which may be likened to the memory of the individual. Nor is the parallel wholly fanciful. A group of people is bound together by consciousness of a common past experience. Initiation is admission to a share in this memory. By ceremonials,

¹ Abstract of an address given at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, January 10, 1916.

festivals, celebration of anniversaries a society refreshes its recollection of the past and renews its loyalty, hope, and purpose. We shall for a little time seek suggestions from this likeness between national or state history and the personal memory.

Without memory there can be no personality; without history no real nation or state. The loss of individual memory is an actual destruction of the self. No event in personal life has meaning until it is explained by past experience. So it is with a society; only a knowledge of its history gives a clue to its character. The United States can have no real significance to a mind that knows naught of Washington, of Marshall, of Lincoln, and of the things for which they stand. Minnesota is to us only a name unless it conjures up a procession of red men, voyageurs, missionaries, pioneers of settlement, organizers of institutions, immigrants, leaders of men, gradually creating a commonwealth. We can not realize ourselves as a group unless, in imagination, we can picture the onward sweep of events, the pageant of the past which has made us what we are.

A vague or fallacious memory weakens personality and impairs efficiency. In the same way, if citizens have a fragmentary and false picture of their country's history, the nation will lack true unity and fail to respond wisely to new issues. A people and its leaders may be ignorant of the past or misinterpret it, and so lack stability and strength of group character. The misinterpretation of the past may lead to a dangerous self-satisfaction and an intolerable priggishness in an individual. So a people, by refusing to face frankly its mistakes, may suffer from arrogance and fall into a fool's paradise.

Memory fosters pride, which is a condition of achievement. The man who brings things to pass gains courage from the memory of his successes, just as he attains humility by frank recollection of his failures. Sound national or state pride is a spur to effort and a means of progress. It is well to distinguish between vanity and pride. The former is mere anxiety to win admiration; the latter springs from obligation to be true to

character, loyal to the past. Vain boasting is a different thing from self-reliant pride which stirs sentiment, releases power, and spurs to action. True state pride values the character, standards, ideals, solid achievements of its citizenship. State vanity is likely to think of numbers, natural resources, or spectacular and ephemeral notoriety. Vanity has a roving eye for the praise of others; pride looks within for purpose and courage.

Memory selects and preserves vivid and vital experiences; it forgets the trivial and unimportant. So the national history perpetuates essential things. Heroes in due time become types; their virtues are exalted; their weaknesses ignored. Governor Ramsey doubtless had his weaknesses and shortcomings, but his fearless stand for the conservation of school lands makes him an inspiring type of the citizen who has a keen sense of public interest and welfare as opposed to private selfishness and desire to exploit the common domain.

Memory is preserved and deepened by symbols, by repetitions, by conscious thought. A society that would perpetuate its history must be ever vigilant and resourceful. Flags, pictures, monuments play a vital part. Anniversaries, memorial days, festivals, historic pageants vivify the social memory. These celebrations must not be permitted to become mere unconscious routine; they must not degenerate into holidays for pleasure and recreation. Just as the individual can not safely allow his memory to grow dim, to lose its power over his imagination, its influence upon his character, so the nation or state can not with impunity neglect the means for keeping the sense of the past vivid in the minds of all its citizens.

Memory can not serve the future until imagination has translated the past into new ideals and purposes. Historical conditions never repeat themselves. Every new situation is in some sense unique. Old heroism has to be translated into new courage. The valor of war must be turned into the virtues of peace. War is drastic. It rushes on to climax and decision.

It has moments of great achievement. It culminates in victory or defeat.

The new civic heroism works under other conditions. These too often seem commonplace. They make little appeal to the romantic imagination. There is doubtless some likeness between the battle of arms and the struggle for safer sanitary conditions, better housing, and the protection of women and children, for public recreation, for political reform, for justice, tolerance, and good will. It requires, however, a resourceful imagination to hold this likeness steadily before the mind and to turn fancy into conduct. Yet the past must be pressed into the service of the present and the future. We hope to escape the woe of war, but we ought not to want to shirk the discipline and sacrifice which war requires. As we read the past, we must be convinced that it is our duty to discover and practice what James called "the moral equivalent of war."

Memory is a deposit of countless details, a few of them salient and conspicuous, but most of them merged into general impressions and lost sight of as separate items. Thus the social memory exalts a few famous individuals, but at the same time it carries on a mass of personal influences, potent though anonymous. It is a noble service to contribute inspiring ideas and deeds which live in the national memory. Few, if any of us, can hope to have our names carried down by the traditions of the community. Our influence must be merged in the vast ongoing common life.

But I fear that you grow weary of an analogy which may be easily pressed too far. This play of the imagination may, however, make a little more clear these truths: The social tradition is a vital factor of collective life; agencies for keeping this memory accurate, vivid, and widely diffused in public consciousness must be maintained; an historical society gets its meaning and has its task defined in relation to this social function. The work of such an association must be directed toward supplying the data from which careful historical scholarship can derive trustworthy conclusions, and also toward impressing

the popular imagination with the true significance of the past, a lively sense of the evolution of the state as a social unity.

Certain obvious limitations suggest themselves in connection with a state historical society. Minnesota, for example, is not a self-sufficient community, set off from the social fabric of which it forms a part. Our state lines are, in a sense, artificial and arbitrary limits for administrative convenience. Commerce, industry, intercourse, common interests largely ignore these boundaries. Minnesota, from one point of view, seems more a center of a great northwestern province than a distinguishable commonwealth. Furthermore, the Northwest is only a part of the Mississippi Valley; that, in turn, a constituent area of the United States. The nation is commonly deemed the true unit. Local loyalty is, nevertheless, the school of larger patriotism. The life of a politically organized commonwealth does separate itself to a degree from the surrounding area and become a center of memory and purpose for its citizens. The Minnesota Historical Society has, therefore, a specific opportunity and a definite duty.

The function of gathering data for the use of historical scholarship is so well recognized as to require only brief notice at this time. The state archives are so fundamental in this field that it seems expedient and wise to put these in the custody of the historical society. In the filing of newspapers this association has done notable and essential work. The press of a people, when this press is carefully interpreted by experienced scholars, is an invaluable source of information. Pamphlets, posters, broadsheets, announcements of all kinds are worth preserving. Illustrations, maps, graphic material of many sorts yield indispensable aid. The collecting of printed volumes, reports, biographies, family histories, and the like is an obvious duty. To gather, in manuscript form, from the memories of early settlers a mass of personal experience which each year grows less available, is one of the things that should not be neglected. The discovery and classification of old letters, business documents, old ledgers, etc., is very important. In short,

the society, in fulfilling its function as an agency of the social memory, should examine, sift, and preserve all available records of every phase of life in Minnesota and in the adjacent area which forms a part of the larger society to which Minnesota essentially belongs. All of these things your society is already doing or planning to undertake. You need no exhortation. It is to be hoped that ample funds will be at your disposal. Much of the work can be done now very economically; some of it, if too long postponed, can never be accomplished at all.

The task of popularizing the social memory requires the coöperation of many agencies: the family, the school, the library, the press, public ceremonies, anniversaries, pageants, the museum. It is not the aim of this paper to propose a definite division of labor among these agencies. In all cases the historical society ought to be a fundamental reliance. We may well consider, however, certain undertakings which are essential to the success of a plan for impressing the imagination of young and old with a vivid sense of the past in its various aspects—industrial, educational, political, social—a kind of mental panorama or pageant.

Of late two inventions have added enormously to the recording resources of mankind. Photographs and reproductions of all kinds, printed music, stereopticon slides are familiar enough as library and museum material. The moving picture, the phonograph, and the piano player have opened up fascinating vistas for historical collections. The hard rubber record, or at least the original mold from which it is cast, ought to insure, under safe conditions of storage, practical indestructibility. The perforated record rolls are not important. Printed music can easily be reproduced. The endurance of the gelatin film for moving pictures has yet to be tested over a long period, but, if necessary, devices for transferring originals to glass and using these prints for reproducing future copies, ought to be easily worked out. Records, both auditory and visual, are now being regularly made and stored by scientific societies and museums. The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, for

example, has made a large number of records of Indian speech, songs, dances, and other ceremonials. The voices of noted men and women are being recorded and preserved. How much it would mean to us if we had moving pictures taken by Hennepin, Radisson, Du Lhut, Carver, Pike, Leavenworth, and Cass, of what they saw in Minnesota, and could listen to the voices of these men describing the scenes depicted. It is obviously necessary to recognize these new devices for recording scenes and sounds, and to adopt a well-thought-out, systematic policy with respect to the making and filing of the records. Public ceremonies of many kinds, important events, prominent personalities, the introduction of new industrial processes, activities which are disappearing—all form subject matter for record. It would seem to be the duty of the state historical society to assume the task of enriching and strengthening the social memory by the use of these new recording agencies.

There is another important device for preserving the social tradition, namely the historical museum. Wealth of material representing centuries of development has created in Europe many institutions of this character. The National Museum of Zurich is a notable example of collection, classification, and exhibition. The life of Switzerland is portrayed from the times of the lake dwellers up to the present day. By reproductions, models, actual originals, all arranged in an evolutionary series, a remarkable effect is produced. Weapons, tools and utensils, furniture, textiles, house interiors, costumes, armor, horse trappings, sledges, carts, carriages, art products in enormous variety, are so grouped that the visitor passes from period to period, gaining a vivid idea of the life of the Swiss people. It is easy to understand why classes from the schools not only of Zurich but of all German Switzerland spend much time with their teachers in the halls and suites of rooms in the Landes Museum, this marvelously illustrated textbook of Swiss history.

There are many other museums of the same general character. The Bavarian National Museum in Munich, the Germanic National Museum in Nuremberg, the Historical Museum

in Berlin, the Willet-Holthuysen Museum in Amsterdam, the Maison Cluny in Paris, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London are well-known examples of notable historic collections. The Musée Carnavalet of Paris is the finest civic museum in existence. Many continental and English towns and cities maintain museums of local civic history. Scandinavia has made suggestive contributions to the museum idea. The Danish National Museum in Copenhagen is of the more conventional type, but in both Christiania and Stockholm a distinctive feature has been added. The National Museum of Christiania has an open-air annex in which are to be found original old buildings and reproductions of characteristic Norwegian structures of historic interest. There is also a collection of agricultural implements. Stockholm has attained distinction for several of its institutions. The Northern Museum is one of the city's greatest achievements. This remarkable collection of ornaments, implements, furniture, and costumes owes its origin to the imagination and untiring zeal of one man, Dr. Arthur Hazelius, who foresaw that the older objects would be superseded by modern products, and rescued a great number of articles which otherwise would have disappeared. Thanks to Dr. Hazelius no country can equal Sweden in presenting a picture of early and medieval culture. An open-air annex of seventy acres, known as Skansen, illustrates the national history and ethnography of Sweden. All the flora and most of the fauna are to be found here. One may visit a Lap village, a cottage of the sixteenth century, a Swedish coal mine, a charcoal-burners' camp, a medieval farm and dairy, and old churches. In an hour's walk the visitor passes through centuries and touches every quarter of the land. On Sundays and holidays all the attendants appear in costumes which represent all parts of Sweden. For Skansen, too, we are indebted to the tireless Dr. Hazelius.

How soon will Minnesota discover a man or group of men with the vision and zeal of this Swedish museum-maker? It is none too soon to plan for a Minnesota state historical museum

of the European type. A mere miscellaneous collection of curios and souvenirs will not do. Fancy the fate of a library that trusted to haphazard begging or to desultory, planless buying of books. Imagine the calamity of following a similar policy for a gallery of art. An historical museum must work out a general plan of periods, of types of material, of the classification and arrangement of objects, and then actively proceed to carry out its policy. This work can not be begun in Minnesota too soon. Objects can be had now which in a few years will be lost. An immediate canvass of the state would yield rich returns. Citizens would gladly give significant things if they could be assured that these articles would be preserved.

A complete historical museum for Minnesota would include the ethnology of the region. The Smithsonian Institution and the Field Columbian Museum have shown what can be done with lay figures, costumes, implements, etc., in depicting striking scenes of Indian life. The French explorations afford another topic for graphic representation. Domestic architecture would play an interesting part. Log cabins, sod houses, settlers' shanties, early cottages, etc., with their furniture and equipment, would form a significant section. Models would be used chiefly, but suites of interiors could be arranged as in the best European museums. Costume collections would prove extremely instructive. Nor need one go for the eccentric in this field to a remote past. The "bustles" of the eighties and the balloon sleeves of the nineties would seem sufficiently grotesque to give the costume section an air of antiquity.

Transportation is always an important fundamental social function. A collection of vehicles in models or originals, Indian tepee poles dragging behind a pony, snowshoes, sledges, stone boats, Red River carts, Concord stages, early locomotives, primitive city horse cars, would be as fascinating as the corresponding series of birch-bark canoes, dugouts, bateaux, flat-boats, canal boats, and perhaps a stateroom and pilot house, taken from an old-time Mississippi steamer. Weapons of the chase, traps, hunting and fishing scenes would play a char-

acteristic part in the attempt to depict Minnesota life. A collection of agricultural implements from the earliest and most primitive of Indian times to recent days would be an essential feature of the industrial section. The development of lumbering, milling, brick-making, textiles, and other forms of production would be set forth. The evolution of the schoolhouse and its equipment of furniture, books, and apparatus would be material for representation.

Our museum might possibly contain divisions in which the chief elements of immigration could be represented. It would probably be wiser, however, to distribute the objects brought from foreign lands, and have such articles appear under their respective classifications. The lace-making industry of New Ulm, for example, would be classified under household industries rather than in a German division. This would be more in harmony with our American ideals and would more truly symbolize the merging into Minnesota life of many different elements from many different sources.

This brief sketch of a possible state historical museum has not dealt with the question of division of labor and administrative responsibility. A number of interests would be directly involved. The department of anthropology of the University of Minnesota would be anxious to have direct relation to the ethnological section; the college of agriculture to the collection of farming implements. The lumber and milling interests would want to have a part in the exhibits concerned with their industries. Questions of unification, location, responsibility, leadership would arise. It is to be hoped that the sole determining factor would be the best interests of the state as a whole, for in order to be completely successful the museum ought to be a Minnesota state museum.

How far-reaching the influence of such a museum might be made! Not only would thousands of citizens resort to the museum itself, but by photographs, slides, illustrated catalogues, special bulletins, traveling loan collections sent to schools, the museum would be taken to the people. An open-air annex—

possibly on the state fair grounds—might be established, and models, reproductions, and actual buildings of historic interest assembled there, as has been done so successfully in Christiania and Stockholm.

The Minnesota Historical Society, by virtue of its own history and its place in the state, is the natural leader in a movement for a state historical museum. The coöperation of many agencies will be necessary. The formulation of a plan, the imagination, the enthusiasm, the persistence to execute it, should come from that organization in Minnesota to which is intrusted the task of helping to keep the social memory accurate and vivid, a guide and inspiration to the people of the commonwealth. For without memory there can be no personality, without an ever-alert sense of the past and its significance, a people can not maintain its solidarity and translate the experiences of yesterday into the purposes of to-morrow.

GEORGE E. VINCENT

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MINNEAPOLIS

LLOYD BARBER¹

May it please the court to listen to a few words from me in appreciation of our departed jurist, the Honorable Lloyd Barber.

I saw him for the first time in June, 1858, at Rochester, Minnesota, where he had just opened a law office. He was then about thirty years of age, a man in vigorous health and in high expectation of a useful and distinguished professional career. The country round about the town of Rochester was then being settled and preëmpted. Its limpid streams, its fertile soil, and its healthful skies beckoned the industrious to its borders, there to acquire competence and content. A number

¹ Memorial address delivered June 1, 1915, in the district court at Winona, Minnesota.

Lloyd Barber was born in Bath, Steuben County, New York, January 11, 1826. He visited Minnesota for the first time in 1852, spending some time in St. Paul; but as a favorable business opportunity did not present itself, he returned to New York, where he remained for the succeeding six years, devoting himself to the study of law. He was admitted to the bar in 1857. The following year found him again in the West, and he at length began the practice of his profession in Rochester, Minnesota. In 1862 he was elected county attorney of Olmsted County. In 1874 he removed to Winona and opened a law office which he maintained for nearly thirty-four years. In his earlier years Judge Barber was one of the most prominent men of the bar in the Northwest, and his decisions as judge were widely quoted. He was one of the incorporators of the Winona Bar Association, January 2, 1889, being named as vice-president. From the time of his coming to Minnesota Judge Barber was actively interested in agriculture. On his removal to Winona, he disposed of his two farms near Rochester, and in 1880 purchased a large tract of fourteen hundred acres in Richmond township, Winona County, which he eventually developed into a stock farm. Mr. Barber was married in 1862 to Mary J. De Bow of Almond, New York, who died in January, 1867. In the following year (February, 1868) he married Lucy Storrs of Long Meadow, Massachusetts. His death occurred at Winona, May 8, 1915. Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, *History of Winona County*, 1: 273, 288 (Chicago, 1913); *Winona Independent*, May 9, 1915.—Ed.

of lawyers, among others Stiles P. Jones, Colonel James George, Judge Elza A. McMahon, and John W. Remine, had already preceded him. They were all trained in the old common law practice and held in contempt the new code in which law and equity were merged, but Judge Barber had studied and practiced the Field code in New York where it originated and whence it came through Wisconsin into Minnesota upon the organization of the latter as a territory. His familiarity with this new practice gave him a decided advantage over old practitioners. He was also a man who spent all his spare time in study and, as a result, he was able to speak with precision and authority upon doubtful questions. Courts listened to him with marked attention, and his clients were inspired with confidence. He became the leader of the Olmsted County bar, and his name was honored at the bank.

On July 6, 1864, Thomas Wilson of Winona, first judge of the third judicial district, was appointed by Governor Stephen Miller as a justice of the supreme court. A Republican judicial convention for the third district was then called by D. Sinclair, chairman, for September 7, 1864, at Winona, to nominate a candidate for judge at the approaching November election. Delegates were apportioned as follows: to Winona and Olmsted counties eight each, to Wabasha and Houston five each, and to Fillmore nine. The convention met and nominated Judge Barber; thereupon Governor Miller appointed him on September 12 to serve out the unexpired three and a half months of Judge Wilson's term. There was much talk at the time of giving the nomination to Chauncey N. Waterman of Winona, inasmuch as he was considered equally well qualified and as Winona could be more conveniently reached by the lawyers of the district. But Winona already had Daniel S. Norton as a candidate for United States senator, William Windom as representative in Congress, and Thomas Wilson as a justice of the supreme court, and these sagacious statesmen deemed it unwise to take everything in sight for Winona. The Democrats of the district, however, nominated Waterman,

although he was a Republican, but at the election in November Barber received the greater number of votes, and served out his term of seven years with credit to himself and with satisfaction to the district.

The next convention for the third judicial district was held September 27, 1871, at Winona. Norton had been, in the meantime, elected United States senator and had served from March 4, 1865, until his death July 13, 1870; Wilson had resigned the office of chief justice July 14, 1869; and Windom had been chosen United States senator for the six-year term beginning March 4, 1871. Wabasha, Winona, and Houston counties now for the sake of convenience preferred Waterman for judge and he was nominated by the vote of these three counties. He was elected without opposition, and on January 1, 1872, Judge Barber's judicial career came to an end.

Soon afterwards Judge Barber removed from Rochester to Winona and opened a law office for general practice. But business did not come to him in satisfactory volume. A jurist retired from the bench rarely returns to the conflict and struggles of the bar with that confident air and with that aggressive, partisan vigor usually exhibited by the practitioner and so satisfying to the militant and often revengeful feeling of his client. In his years of service on the bench he acquires a calm, meditative, and judicial attitude. He does not fight his adversary with that desperate valor of the soldier who has burned his ships behind him, and he usually fails as a general practitioner. He must secure permanent employment as general counsel for some railroad or other large corporation, or be driven out of remunerative practice by younger and more aggressive members of the profession. He learns too late the wisdom of the maxim that a lawyer should first acquire a fortune by industry, inheritance, or marriage before accepting judicial honors.

Judge Barber was born and grew to manhood on a farm in Steuben County, New York, in the midst of a lofty and broken country, whose waters in part flow southward to Dela-

ware Bay and in part northward to Lake Ontario and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The hills lift their heads up to the higher currents of the sky, and the decaying mold, which trickles down their abruptly sloping sides, fertilizes the green valleys in between. Fortune was to the boy a stern and rugged nurse. Clad in homespun, he toiled early and late, in heat and cold. But dwellers amid such broken and lofty scenes acquire a love of home, a patriotic devotion to their firesides and green fields unknown to those who inhabit the dull, unchanging plains. Barber felt that love of his rugged home in all its magnetic force. He left Steuben the third time before he grew content to live elsewhere.

When his law business failed to be remunerative, he sold his level prairie farm six miles northeast of Rochester and purchased some acres along the lofty bluffs eleven miles southeast of Winona. There among the towering hills he felt again that unspeakable satisfaction of his boyhood days, when in the old red schoolhouse he recited Sir Walter Scott's tale of that McGregor who would give his highland roof to the flames and his flesh to the eagles before he'd bow the head or bend the knee to the lowland lords of the plain below. He retained his residence and law office in Winona, but in later years the office was nearly always locked, and in 1908 he closed it and returned the key to his lessor.

His life was pure, his purpose noble, his conduct worthy of admiration. The Olmsted County bar in a body followed his remains to their last resting place in Oakwood Cemetery in Rochester, indulging a reasonable expectation that he, once their temporal judge, would find favor with the Judge Eternal.

CHARLES C. WILLSON

ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

GENESIS OF THE TYPEWRITER¹

In the winter of 1849-50 William K. Rogers of Ohio (afterwards private secretary of President Hayes), Richard Anderson (afterwards a lawyer of note in Cincinnati), and myself, three Kenyon College graduates, intimate friends, were in Boston, where, as students of law, we obtained seats in the courtroom during the trial of Professor Webster for the murder of Dr. Parkman. This famous trial, ending in the conviction of Webster, was long drawn out, and we had a good deal of time, when the court was not in session, in which to become acquainted with the city. One day I visited the shop of an ingenious mechanic named Chamberlin, situated on one of the short thoroughfares leading from the Common to Washington Street, either Summer or Winter Street. I had been working on a new device for a sewing machine in which the fabric was pierced through and through by means of a double-pointed needle with an eye in the center, and which was to be operated by the aid of electricity. I asked this Mr. Chamberlin to construct for me a model of what I had in mind. He, however, advised me, before I proceeded further with my invention, to go to a certain number on Washington Street and examine some machines which he had recently installed there. I visited the place and saw six of the machines in operation. They were being used in the making of clothing and were doing work which was apparently satisfactory. The device employed was a complete surprise to me: a shuttle revolving under the cloth plate by means of which a loop stitch was formed. A careful examination of the machines convinced me that they were much simpler in construction and could be manufactured at much less cost than my own. I returned to Mr. Chamberlin and told him that I should not do anything further with my

¹ Read at the stated meeting of the executive council of the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, December 13, 1915.

model and gave him my reasons. "Your decision is a wise one," he replied, "for it would take a long time and a considerable fortune to teach people how to manage the electrical attachment on your machine. There are some men in ——— Street, for whom I have done work recently, who can tell you how difficult it is to educate people in the use of electrical contrivances. You had better go to see them if you are interested in such things."

In accordance with his suggestion I searched out the place and found the men working on a chemical telegraph proposition. While I stood examining the apparatus they were using, there came to me the idea of a writing or printing machine by means of which characters could be produced by striking paper through an inked ribbon with steel types attached to levers so hung that when moved they met at a common center, the paper being fastened to a carriage which automatically moved forward a space after each depression of the levers. The idea was a fascinating one and became so forceably impressed on my mind that I was never able wholly to rid myself of it. I went back to Chamberlin's to talk it over with him and to consider the advisability of constructing such a machine. Before anything was determined, however, I left Boston, and did not return for many years.

In July, 1850, I took up my residence in St. Paul, Minnesota. At first, the activities of frontier life fully engaged my attention and left me no time for making a model of my typewriter, although the idea was constantly present in my mind. Later, on the outbreak of the Civil War, I volunteered for service in the Union army. I served as chief quartermaster with General Thomas in the campaign against General Hood. After Hood was defeated and driven out of Tennessee, we were stationed for a time at Nashville. I had very little to do and, happening upon a German in the ranks who was a clever mechanic, I engaged his services and began looking up material for a wooden model of my writing machine. But the work was interrupted again on my receiving orders requir-

ing me to rejoin my own command in Virginia with General Sherman.

At the end of the war I resigned from the service and returned to Minnesota. Immediately I became interested in projecting, obtaining land grants for, and building the Hastings and Dakota Railroad. In the course of the construction work it became necessary to make some flat cars, and I went to Milwaukee to purchase wheels and other material. The exact date of this trip can not be stated with certainty without reference to the books of the Hastings and Dakota Company, which are at the present time probably in the possession of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railway Company. One day when I was in the offices of the latter company, Superintendent Merrill said to me, "General, you are fond of mechanical contrivances; come with me over to Director Glidden's room and look at a new machine for paging books." A few moments later we were in Mr. Glidden's office where I was introduced to a Mr. C. L. Sholes, the maker of the paging machine, who explained briefly its mechanism and operation. "Well, General, what do you think of it?" asked Mr. Glidden. "It is a very ingenious and well-made machine," I replied; "but its use will, I think, be limited, and the demand for it so inconsiderable as to be quite insufficient to meet the cost of manufacturing it. I have had in mind for many years a machine not more difficult to make than this one, a machine which, when properly made and introduced, will come to be universally used not only in our own country but in foreign lands. The idea came to me one day in Boston at the time of the great trial of Webster for the murder of Parkman, and impressed itself on my mind as one which ought to be worked out. Up to this time my attention has been so fully occupied that I have not been able to give the matter any thought. At present these railroad affairs are absorbing all my time. It is my belief that ideas like this are inspirations to us from the unknown; that on receiving them, we become in a way trustees and that our trusteeship imposes on us an obligation: we are bound to see these inspirations brought to completion.

Now I am going to relieve myself of any responsibility for this idea of mine by passing it on to Mr. Sholes, provided he will promise to make the machine." Seating myself at a near-by table, I drew a rough sketch of what I called a typewriter. I explained how the type-bars were to hang so that the type would strike the paper at a common center through an inked ribbon, and how, at the instant of striking, the paper carriage moved forward one space. "Yes, yes, I understand; I think I can make such a machine," said Sholes. "Very well, I will give you the idea on condition that you make a machine, take out patents on it, and start a factory. You will find customers for all the machines that you and many others are able to make." I hurriedly left the offices with Mr. Merrill, went on about my railroad business, and gave the matter no further thought.

Mr. Sholes, at this time collector of the port of Milwaukee, Mr. Glidden, a director of the Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company and himself an inventor, and a Mr. Soule, an editor and printer, were the men who were back of the paging machine, and who, at my suggestion, now agreed to take up the matter of the typewriter. The task of constructing the machine was intrusted to Mathias Schwalbach, a German clock-maker employed by Sholes at three dollars a day. As the work progressed, Schwalbach suggested some changes, among others the banking of the keys in three rows. The machine was at length completed, and in 1868 Sholes and Glidden applied for patents.¹ A later model with improvements was patented by

¹ Previous to this date the following patents had been granted for typewriters, or machines similar in character and purpose: In 1714 a British patent was granted to Henry Mill; in America a patent for a "typographer" was obtained by William A. Burt in 1829; the "typographic machine or pen" on the type-bar principle was patented by X. Pogrín of Marseilles in 1833; between 1847 and 1856 Alfred E. Beach in America, and between 1855 and 1860 Sir Charles Wheatstone in England, made several typewriters; in 1857 Dr. S. W. Francis of New York made one with a pianoforte keyboard and type-bars arranged in a circle; and in 1866 John Pratt, an American living in London, patented a machine with types mounted in three rows on a wheel, the rotation of which brought the required character opposite the printing point. *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 27: 501 (1911 edition).

Sholes and Schwartz in 1871. It is probable that Edison was consulted at or before this time, since in an article in *System* (10: 230—September, 1906) he says: "I helped build the first typewriter that came out. At that time I had a shop in Newark and a man from Milwaukee—a Mr. Sholes—came to me with a wooden model, which we finally got into working shape."

In order to bring the typewriter to the attention of the public, Sholes sent typed letters out through the country. One of these fell into the hands of James Densmore of New York. He went to Milwaukee to examine the machine personally, and as a result of his visit the organization of the typewriter company of Densmore, Sholes, and Schwalbach was brought about. The new company began immediately the work of manufacturing the machines. Densmore, who had put all his money, six hundred dollars, into the venture, took the first one that was completed to New York. The next few months were serious ones for him; reduced to the extremity of sleeping in a garret and of living for the most part on apples, he went from door to door in fruitless attempts to interest some one in the machine. Finally he made a deal with the Western Union Telegraph Company, by which he received ten thousand dollars. Densmore then returned to Milwaukee and bought out his partners, paying Schwalbach three hundred and fifty dollars besides turning over to him the shop and its contents. Later (about 1875) he was able to interest the firm of E. Remington and Sons, gun-makers, of Ilion, New York, in the proposition and placed the manufacture of the machines in their hands.¹

And so it came about that when I was in charge of the department of agriculture under the Hayes administration, one day the respectable colored man, "old Uncle John," who did duty as doorkeeper, informed me that a man wished to see me

¹ Densmore's royalties, so I am informed, have amounted to over a million dollars. Sholes is reported to have said that he realized from his interest in the machine only about twelve thousand dollars. A serious illness of long duration soon exhausted this sum and he died in poverty. Glidden has also died. Schwalbach is, I believe, still engaged in the clock business.

for a few moments. I directed my assistant Mr. O. D. La Dow to ascertain whether the man's business was of enough importance to warrant an interruption of my work. On his return he said, "It was only a man who wished to show you a machine. I have sent him away." "What kind of machine was it?" I asked. "He said it was a typewriter," was the reply. "Typewriter! Typewriter! Call him back! I have a special interest in typewriters!" I exclaimed. On being shown into the room, the man exhibited a typewriter, *my* typewriter, a Remington model, writing only capital letters. I was much interested in the machine and submitted it to Mr. La Dow for trial and approval. The machine was purchased, being the first, so the salesman reported, to be installed in a public office. Improved models were soon afterwards made in which the type-bars each carried two characters, a small letter and capital. The skillful operation of the machines by my assistants soon made them popular, and their use gradually extended to other offices notwithstanding the ridicule attending the introduction of "new methods of economy in the department of agriculture."

My prophecy that the use of the typewriter would become universal in both our own and other countries has been in these later years more than fulfilled. Indeed, the conduct of present-day business enterprises is possible only through its aid.

WILLIAM G. LE DUC

HASTINGS, MINNESOTA

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

The Scandinavian Element in the United States (University of Illinois, *Studies in the Social Sciences*, vol. 3, no. 3). By KENDRIC CHARLES BABCOCK, dean of the college of liberal arts and sciences, University of Illinois; sometime fellow, University of Minnesota and Harvard University. (Urbana, University of Illinois, 1914. 223 p.)¹

Mr. Babcock has long been a student of the Scandinavian element in this country. Since 1892 he has been a contributor to periodicals of articles dealing with phases of the subject, and from these earlier studies has grown the present elaborate monograph on the Scandinavian element. In its preparation the author has utilized extensive materials and authorities. Besides printed sources of all sorts, in English, Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish, he has secured "much matter relating to the subject gathered by means of personal interviews, correspondence, and observations extending over a series of years."

He is deeply interested in the problem of the alien, and believes in the careful investigation of the characteristics of each "cohort in the national forces," an intensive study of each immigrant group. Thus can their contributions to American life and character be appraised. For the Germans the monumental study by A. B. Faust constitutes such a work. Recently similar works have appeared for the Scotch-Irish, for the Jewish immigration from 1881 to 1910, and for emigration from the United Kingdom. Mr. Babcock has undertaken the study of one great group, the Scandinavians, who in at least six states of the Northwest have been "among the chief contributors to State-building." He points out significantly that among the twenty-four million immigrants who came to the United States during the eighty years ending in June, 1906, the Scandinavians numbered more than one million and seven hundred thousand.

The author begins with an analysis of the Scandinavian char-

¹ Reprinted by permission from the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, 2: 440-43 (December, 1915).

acter. Norwegians, Swedes, and Danes have many characteristics in common, such as patience, persistence, thrift, love of adventure, courage in facing the possibilities of the future, hatred of slavery, clear, high ideas of personal and political freedom. No less striking is their adaptability to changes of clime, conditions, and circumstances. Yet there are striking temperamental differences between the three. Mr. Babcock's contrast of the Swedes and Norwegians is discriminative and significant. The Swede is aristocratic, polite, vivacious, fond of dignities, assertive, often brilliant, yet a persistent worker, and capable of energy and endurance. The most striking quality of the Norwegian is his democracy. He is "simple, serious, intense, severe even to bluntness, often radical and visionary, and with a tendency to disputatiousness." He has fire and imagination, and is a strenuous, almost turbulent, worker, but, in Mr. Babcock's opinion, he has rarely developed the qualities of great leadership.

Immigrants to the United States are to be judged by "the character and preparation which best fit men to contribute to the permanent progress of a self-governing people." What is the status of the Scandinavians upon this basis? Mr. Babcock believes they are to be rated high—their character, their literacy, their history confirming him in this belief. One feels that he might well have dealt more fully with the latter phase, the history of the Scandinavians in Europe as a background. The Norwegian constitution of 1814, for example, and the political and literary movements in that country during the nineteenth century undoubtedly exerted vast, though intangible, influence upon the thought of the Norwegian element in America.

In a series of four chapters Mr. Babcock considers the causes for the great movement of Scandinavians in response to the call of the American West, and tells briefly and concisely the fascinating story of the westward wave of Scandinavian immigration. The chapters on Norwegian immigration deal with a subject that has been covered in a thorough and scholarly manner by George T. Flom in his monograph *A History of Norwegian Immigration . . . to the Year 1848*. Mr. Babcock adds a compact chapter dealing with the expansion and distribution of the Scandinavian immigrants during the years 1850–1900, tracing the stream of immigration as it flows out "over the wilderness of the upper

Mississippi Valley and west of the Great Lakes." He points out that seventy per cent of the total Scandinavian immigration came into the Northwest.

The greater and more significant portion of the monograph is in the nature of an interpretation of the contribution of the Scandinavians to America from economic, religious, intellectual, social, and political standpoints. The section on "Economic Forces at Work" is impressive in the mass of facts and statistics which it presents. Of particular importance is the history of the relation of Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish immigrants to the land policy and the development of railway transportation in the West. The value of a particular group of immigrants in the building and development of a region is difficult to estimate because so many angles must be considered. Even economically a purely statistical study must be at best incomplete, for, as Mr. Babcock himself points out, industry, frugality, and intelligence are prime factors. Yet his estimate on the basis of money value is of considerable interest. He values an immigrant over fourteen and under forty-five at one thousand dollars. Then, estimating that eighty per cent of the foreign-born enumerated in the census of 1900 reached this country between those ages, the total capital represented by the Scandinavians on that basis was eight hundred and fifty million dollars. Immigration in the next five years added two hundred and thirty million dollars to this. The total represented "just so much given by the gods of plenty to accelerate the development of the West" (p. 93).

Mr. Babcock's figures frequently do not come down to date. The money estimates referred to above reach the year 1905. On page 102 he speaks of the department store of "S. E. Olson & Co." in Minneapolis, as "one of the largest department stores west of Chicago, and probably the greatest Scandinavian business house in the country . . . which does a yearly business of about \$2,000,000, and in the height of the season employs more than 700 persons." However S. E. Olson and Company went out of business fourteen years ago. On page 122 in his paragraph on church services in the Lutheran church, figures for 1905 are used. Those for 1913 were available, and show a great advance in the transition from Norwegian to English. One page 121, also, the statistics of the United church are for 1905. Other similar

indications show that considerable portions of the book were written at least eight or nine years ago, and not thoroughly revised before publication.

In discussing the Scandinavian element from the religious and intellectual standpoint, Mr. Babcock points out their almost perfect literacy; their record in acquiring the use of English; their establishment of church schools and denominational colleges, as well as their loyalty to the American public school. In his account of churches and religion among the Scandinavians, he confines himself largely to statistics. The literature of the Scandinavian Lutheran church, the annual reports of the church synods, and other valuable sources on the religious life of the Scandinavians seem not to have been utilized. This is unfortunate when one considers how vital the church has been for a large proportion of the immigrants from the northern peninsula. It is likewise to be regretted that, while a good estimate of the Scandinavian press is given, no mention is made of the literary activity of the Danes, Norwegians, and Swedes in this country, which has been neither inconsiderable in quantity nor insignificant in quality. One fails to find in Mr. Babcock's book the names of the influential literary leaders among the Scandinavian-Americans. Such a discriminative anthology as *Norsk-amerikanske digte*, for example, is not mentioned. One could wish that less attention had been given to the political, and more to the literary, musical, and artistic labors of the Scandinavians.

After a brief statistical examination of their social relations and characteristics, Mr. Babcock makes a careful study of the Scandinavian influence in local and state politics, and of party preferences and political leadership. In the states of the Northwest the Norse have been extremely active in all branches of local politics, no less than in the legislative, administrative, and executive departments of state government. Not a few have risen to high political distinction in both nation and state. With the spread of the spirit of independent voting, the old staunch republicanism of the Scandinavians seems to be undergoing a change. Mr. Babcock criticizes severely, and with good cause, the tendency toward voting and political recognition on a racial basis.

By thus surveying one important element in its development, Mr. Babcock has made a valuable contribution to American history and particularly to the history of the West. His conclusions, after so long and thorough a study, are significant. "In temperament, early training, and ideals," he declares, "the Scandinavians more nearly approach the American type than any other class of immigrants, except those from Great Britain. . . . The Scandinavians, knowing the price of American citizenship, have paid it ungrudgingly, and are proud of the possession of the high prerogatives and privileges conferred. They fit readily into places among the best and most serviceable of the nation's citizens; without long hammering or costly chiseling they give strength and stability, if not beauty and the delicate refinements of culture, to the social and economic structure of the United States" (page 181).

A critical essay on materials and authorities, an appendix of statistical tables, and the index conclude the volume. In arrangement and classification, as well as inclusiveness, the bibliography is the best in its field. The section on documentary sources is particularly good. On the religious life and activity of the Scandinavians it is not so satisfactory. It is difficult to understand why such mines of information as the annual church reports should be omitted. Also, both for the Norwegians and Swedes, not a few congregational histories have been written, many of them of considerable historical interest, which are not included. Hjalmar R. Holand's *De norske settlementers historie* (Ephraim, Wisconsin, 1908. 603 p.), though to a certain degree uncritical, should not, at any rate, have been omitted from the bibliography.

THEODORE C. BLEGEN

The Scandinavian-American. By ALFRED O. FONKALSRUD, PH.D., with the collaboration of BEATRICE STEVENSON, M.A. (Minneapolis, K. C. Holter Publishing Company, 1915. 167 p.)

Lacking the comprehensiveness and careful workmanship of Mr. Babcock's monograph *The Scandinavian Element in the United States*, this thesis by Dr. Fonkalsrud, the result of a doctoral dissertation at New York University, is in some respects

a more philosophical interpretation of the Scandinavian element than the former. The historical European background, the significance of the religious activity of the Scandinavians in the United States, their literary and artistic achievements are phases which are treated inadequately or not at all by Mr. Babcock. Dr. Fonkalsrud devotes almost four of his nine chapters to these subjects. On the other hand, he gives only the general outlines of the history of the immigration to this country from the three Scandinavian countries, and barely touches upon the movement of expansion so thoroughly analyzed by Mr. Babcock. Himself a Norwegian-American, Dr. Fonkalsrud perhaps lacks the perspective of Mr. Babcock, but his work is a philosophical study of his own people. He believes that the Scandinavians become Americanized too rapidly, and he deplors the rapid transition from the foreign to the English language. One feels that he is not altogether convincing, however, in the position which he takes in this respect, nor in his thesis that the most permanent and valuable contribution of the Scandinavians to American character and life must come from them as a unified group.

The book is written in an awkward and, at times, somewhat stilted style. Footnotes, bibliography, and index are omitted, and a large number of annoying typographical errors mar the text. Despite these obvious shortcomings, however, the dissertation has considerable value as a supplement to the monograph by Mr. Babcock.

T. C. B.

History of Morrison and Todd Counties, Minnesota; Their People, Industries, and Institutions; with Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families. By CLARA K. FULLER. In two volumes. (Indianapolis, B. F. Bowen and Company, 1915. 302, 406 p. Illustrated)

To a Minnesota man no better field for worth-while, intensive work in history offers itself than the settlement and development of one of the counties of the state. The names of the first settlers, the travel routes, the most striking incidents of pioneer days, the organization of local government—all this material is worthy of being recorded in permanent form. But there are

other things of much greater significance. We want to know where the settlers came from; by what routes and with what stops they arrived at their destination; what induced them to come. We want to know what economic problems they had to struggle with, and to what extent pioneer conditions influenced their political, religious, and social life. If these questions were answered fully and accurately for even one county, we should have a far clearer insight into Minnesota history than we have at the present time.

The *History of Morrison and Todd Counties* is the work of a newspaper writer, and, quite naturally, is journalistic in style. As a whole, the material seems to have been put together rather hurriedly, and it is not well organized. The resulting volumes are not so much a history as a compilation. The writer has gathered together what has been already written and has incorporated it without much rewriting into her own book. She has not searched for or brought out any new material.

For an account of the early days of Morrison County the author has evidently relied mainly on Nathan Richardson's "History of Morrison County," which appeared serially in the *Little Falls Transcript* from February 6 to December 29, 1880. One could wish that she had made more use of the characteristic passages of this history. Richardson was a sturdy old pioneer—a man of strong character and of marked likes and dislikes. His history expresses the pioneer point of view and is therefore valuable not only for what he says but for the way in which he says it. Occasional sentences in it give us glimpses of pioneer life which we can get in no other way; for instance, speaking of the younger Hole-in-the-Day, he says: "He had the pleasure of taking off many of their [the Sioux's] scalps with his own hand, and a very good job he made of it. Some specimens that I saw him bring up at one time included not only the whole scalp, but a pair of ears besides, which, from their appearance, were not accustomed to the use of soap."

The biographies which make up the second volume are based on the statements of the subjects of the sketches, and are, presumably, accurate. They should prove for this reason a mine of information for later workers in this field. It seems unfortunate

that the volume is confined to sketches of living people, and does not include biographies of the pioneers who have passed away.

If the reader is looking for a detailed, connected account of the settlement and development of these two counties, he will be disappointed. If he expects to find a county history of the familiar commercial type, he will be satisfied. In typography, binding, and general make-up the volumes are superior to the general run of works of this character.

CHARLES B. KUHLMANN

Early Economic Conditions and the Development of Agriculture in Minnesota (The University of Minnesota, *Studies in the Social Sciences*, no. 3). By EDWARD VAN DYKE ROBINSON, PH.D., professor of economics in the University of Minnesota. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota, 1915. v, 306 p.)

Some years ago Professor Robinson, with the assistance of some of his students in the University of Minnesota, began the preparation of a statistical atlas designed to illustrate the development of agriculture in Minnesota. As the work progressed, however, it seemed desirable to include an interpretation of the facts thus presented in graphic form, and the result is an excellent monograph with a profusion of valuable maps, charts, and tables, and a statistical appendix.

The first chapter, which presents the physiographic background, and the second, dealing with explorations and the beginnings of trade and transportation, are of general interest. These chapters are illustrated by a valuable series of maps showing drainage basins, elevations, forest areas, weather conditions, water routes, military roads, and early railroads. The remainder of the work traces the agricultural development of the state through the periods of pioneer agriculture, 1836-60, specialized wheat farming, 1860-80, and diversified farming, 1880-1900, with a final chapter on recent tendencies. The principal reliance throughout is upon statistics, and the returns of the United States census are carefully analyzed for each decennial period. The figures themselves are given in detail either in text tables or in the appendix, and their significance is brought out graphically

by means of the diagrams and maps. Thus for each census date there are maps depicting, by the dot system, the distribution of population, of the production of different crops, of the various kinds of farm animals, and of the total value of farm products. In each of these maps the county is the unit, and the preface indicates that some difficulty was experienced in determining just what were the county boundaries at the given dates. Taken as a whole, the maps present a moving picture of the progress of population and agricultural development in Minnesota.

Sources of information are clearly indicated in footnotes, and there is a "Bibliographic Note" listing about two hundred items and intended to serve "merely as a guide to some of the more important and readily accessible materials bearing on the economic development of the State." The usefulness of this bibliography would have been greatly enhanced by annotations indicating the character and value of the different works. Unfortunately no index is provided, an omission which is only slightly compensated for by the very elaborate analytical contents table.

A comparison of some of the maps discloses discrepancies which a careful checking of the work should have eliminated. Thus the population maps on pages 46 and 47 would indicate that a number of counties, notably Pembina, had a larger "country" than "rural" population in 1860, although the latter includes the former, and the inhabitants of villages with less than 2,500 population as well. Again, on one of these two maps, the dots for Brown County are all grouped at the eastern end of the county, probably to indicate the part which was settled, while on the other map they are scattered over the whole area. The same system should have been used in both maps. The format of the book is unfortunate. Doubtless the oversize pages are necessary for clearness in the maps, but the text should have been arranged in double columns, for the long lines of ten-point print make very difficult reading. All these are minor matters, however, and students of Minnesota history and economics have cause to be grateful to Professor Robinson, whose career was recently closed by death, to his assistants, and to the graduate school of the University of Minnesota, which supplied the funds for the prosecution of the work and for its publication.

SOLON J. BUCK

Social and Economic Survey of a Community in the Red River Valley (The University of Minnesota, *Current Problems*, no. 4). By LOUIS DWIGHT HARVELL WELD, PH.D., assistant professor of economics, chief of the division of research in agricultural economics. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota, 1915. vi, 86 p.)

Social and Economic Survey of a Community in Northeastern Minnesota (The University of Minnesota, *Current Problems*, no. 5). By GUSTAV P. WARBER, M.A., sometime assistant in agricultural economics in the University of Minnesota. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota, 1915. viii, 115 p.)

There has been much discussion in recent years, both in the magazines and newspapers, of the rural life problem. As a result of investigations carried on by agricultural colleges and the United States department of agriculture, and with the more extensive use of modern farm machinery, a great advance has been made during the last fifty years in agricultural methods. Along with this advance is coming the realization that there is an insistent need of bettering the social, economic, and educational conditions existing in rural communities. Recognizing that no constructive program of rural betterment can carry weight that is not based on an intimate knowledge of the present-day life of an average individual in a typical community, the division of research in agricultural economics of the University of Minnesota three years ago began a series of intensive studies of several rural communities typical of different sections of Minnesota. The same general plan of procedure has been followed in all the studies. Members of the staff of the division visited personally the farms and homes of the territory under investigation, and first-hand data as to the economic, social, educational, and religious activities of the people were obtained. From these field notes the statistical results have been worked out in the form of tables, diagrams, and textual comment. The first study by Mr. C. W. Thompson, published in 1913, is a survey of a farming community in southeastern Minnesota "representative of those regions where diversified farming and dairying have reached a fairly high state of development." Of the

two succeeding studies, the first, by Mr. Weld, is a survey of a community in the "large-farm, grain-growing section" of the state, in the Red River Valley; the second, by Mr. Warber, of a community in the cut-over section of eastern Minnesota, "where potato-growing and dairying are the principal sources of agricultural income, and where the farms are comparatively small." In these volumes both a farming and a village community are studied, not so much for the purpose of comparing conditions in the two groups as to show the economic dependence of the one on the other.

In the first chapter of his Red River Valley survey, Mr. Weld treats of general agricultural conditions. The leading facts brought out are the dependence of the farming population on the growing of grain crops, particularly of wheat, as a source of income; the impending exhaustion of the soil due to the reluctance of the farmers to introduce a system of crop rotation whereby the fertility of the soil is increased, but from which the immediate financial returns are less; and the increase in tenancy with the resulting lowering of standards of living and agricultural methods. The second chapter tells how the farming community lives. The large farms, separating their owners by long distances, the mingling of different nationalities and religions, the large number of rented farms, with tenants coming and going, the cold winters, the long hours of labor, and the scarcity of "hired help" are responsible for the noticeable lack of social intercourse among the farmers and of interest in economic, civic, and educational activities. The marketing of farm products is treated in chapter 3. The facilities open to the farmer for disposing of his commodities are adequate, but attention is called to the fact that higher prices might be obtained were the farmers better organized economically. Very few coöperative associations exist. In chapter 4 the stores and industries of the village are described, and the economic dependence of the village on the rural community immediately tributary to it is noted. In the last chapter we learn how the village people live; the various occupations of the heads of families, the comforts and conveniences found in the homes, the recreations and social organizations are described.

In the survey of Braham township in northeastern Minnesota Mr. Warber has grouped his material in accordance with the same general plan as was noted in Mr. Weld's study. However, the agricultural conditions met with in this community differ greatly from those in the Red River Valley. The community is located in the cut-over region where the land must be cleared of stumps before it can be used for agricultural purposes. As a result the farms are small, most of them being only slightly over one hundred acres in extent. They are best adapted for dairy farming; little attention is paid to the raising of small grains, and the potato crop is practically the only cash crop. Economic conditions are hard, for only by careful scientific management can these farms be made to pay a reasonable return for the labor and capital invested. The farmers of this community, however, have learned the value of coöperation, and coöperative associations of various kinds are noted. There is more social intercourse between families and between members of the farming community and the village. The statistics relating to the social, civic, educational, and religious activities are given in more detail than in Mr. Weld's study. Mr. Warber has added interest and vividness to his narrative by introducing comments of the persons interviewed, showing their own attitude toward the conditions and institutions in their midst.

These studies do not attempt to offer any definite schemes for improving the social and economic conditions obtaining in rural communities, but the series, when completed, will furnish comparative data collected from representative sections of the state which will be of invaluable assistance to those who to-day are trying to solve the rural problem. By a careful study of these data "certain fundamental facts will gradually unfold, with the result that sane and definite methods of procedure may be evolved." But it is not alone to the present-day economist or sociologist that these studies are valuable; of equal worth will they be to that scholar who at some future time is to write a history of the people of Minnesota, for he will rank them among the most important of his source material on the life of Minnesota's rural population in the opening decade of the twentieth century.

FRANC M. POTTER

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society was held in the Capitol at St. Paul on the evening of January 10, 1916. The principal business was the presentation of the reports of the superintendent and treasurer on the operations and finances of the society during the year 1915. Mr. Ford spoke briefly on the need of a national archives building and presented the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

"Whereas the records and papers of the United States government contain an inexhaustible and priceless body of information for the statesman, the administrator, the historian, and the reading public; and,

"Whereas many of these papers, such as the fundamental land records, military, Indian, and territorial records, are also of great importance to the state of Minnesota both from the administrative and historical points of view; and,

"Whereas these papers are now scattered through many repositories in Washington, housed often at great expense for rental in unsafe and unsuitable buildings, exposed to danger from fire, and difficult of access; and,

"Whereas the only true remedy lies in the construction of a suitable national archives building, in which these papers and records can be arranged systematically, found with rapidity, and consulted with ease;

"Resolved that we, the members of the Minnesota Historical Society in annual meeting assembled, respectfully request the representatives and senators from Minnesota in Congress to do all in their power to further the passage by Congress of appropriations for the speedy construction of a suitable building in which to concentrate and properly care for the muniments of the American people."¹

¹ Copies of these resolutions were sent, as directed, to each of the senators and representatives from Minnesota in Congress, and replies have been received at this writing from Senators Nelson and Clapp, and Representatives Miller, Davis, Smith, Steenerson,

At the close of the business session the society adjourned from its reading room to the Senate Chamber, where, despite the inclement weather, a good-sized audience was gathered to hear the annual address by President Vincent of the University of Minnesota on "The Social Memory."

MEMBERSHIP

The total number of members on the rolls of the society on January 1, 1916, was 435, of whom 21 were honorary, 79 corresponding, and 335 active members. The active members are further classified as 269 life, 51 sustaining, and 15 annual members. There were 38 new members enrolled during the year, 37 being active and 1 corresponding. There were 27 members dropped for non-payment of dues and 15 died during the year, making a total loss of 42. Of these, 38 belonged to the class of active members, 3 were corresponding members, and 1 was an honorary member. It will be seen, therefore, that there has been a nominal decrease of 1 in the active membership, and 4 in the total membership. In reality, however, the 27 members who were dropped from the rolls for non-payment of dues should not have been counted as members a year ago, in which case the increase in active membership would have appeared as 26. It should be stated that several opportunities were given to delinquents to pay up their back dues, and some did so. The names of the remainder were then stricken from the rolls. The Minnesota Historical Society should have a much larger membership, for certainly there are many more people in the state who are interested in its history, and who would wish to be connected with the society if the matter were brought to their attention effectively.

The following active members were enrolled during 1915: John M. Bradford, E. L. Shepley, Rev. Arthur W. Farnum, Harry T. Drake, George B. Ware, Professor Thomas Shaw, Homer P. Clark, Amanda Sundean, Mrs. Mary E. McGill, C. J. McConville, Professor Henry M. Funk, James D. Armstrong,

Van Dyke, and Anderson. Most of those who replied expressed their hearty approval of the movement, but some doubted the possibility of securing an appropriation for the building at the present session of Congress. Members of the society whose representatives' names do not appear in the list would do well to write to them urging their support of the measure.

Frances H. Relf, and Victor Robertson of St. Paul; James T. Gerould, Professor Wallace Notestein, Mrs. James T. Morris, Anson S. Brooks, Professor Albert B. White, N. N. Ronning, Mrs. George E. Tuttle, Professor A. C. Krey, and Wilson P. Shortridge of Minneapolis; Earl W. La Gow, Sleepy Eye; Dr. Howard M. Hamblin, Washington, D. C.; George M. Palmer, Mankato; Henry S. Welcome, London, England; Theodore C. Blegen, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Dr. H. M. Blegen, Oslo; F. Curtiss-Wedge, Winona; Mary V. Carney, Hibbing; Rev. T. A. Stafford, Litchfield; and James M. George, Winona.

The present whereabouts of three of the life members of the society are unknown, letters having been returned undelivered from the addresses on the records. They are Rev. William Gannett, formerly of Rochester, Minnesota; Thomas H. Kirk, formerly of San Bernardino, California; and Charles Eliot Pike, formerly of Los Angeles, California. It is possible that some of these are no longer living, but no records of their deaths have been received in the office. Information about them will be greatly appreciated.

GROWTH OF THE LIBRARY

The total number of accessions recorded during the year 1915 was 2,232, of which 1,870 were bound volumes, and 362 were pamphlets placed in pamphlet binders. Of these accessions, 956 items were purchased, 123 were received as exchanges, 366 are gifts, not including 156 United States government documents received on deposit, and 371 are volumes of newspapers donated by the publishers, but bound by the society. The remaining 260 items represent material, mostly pamphlets, which has been in the possession of the society for some time, but was not accessioned until the past year. The total number of accessions on January 1, 1916, was 78,854, of which 78,492 are bound volumes and 362 are pamphlets in binders. The unaccessioned material in the library is estimated at 41,000, making a total estimated strength of almost 120,000 books and pamphlets. Most of the unaccessioned material is in the form of pamphlets, many of which are of great value; all except those of an ephemeral character will be put in pamphlet binders and accessioned as rapidly as possible.

In view of the crowded condition of the library, it does not seem feasible to make extensive purchases of books at the present time. Much of the energy of the library staff, therefore, is directed to the filling-in of the many gaps in the various sets contained in the library. Considerable progress has been made along these lines, and it is believed that the value of the library as an historical workshop will be thereby greatly increased.

A COOPERATIVE VENTURE

The most important materials for the history of Minnesota, outside the state, are to be found in the archives of the United States government at Washington. Unfortunately the conditions in the various archive depositories make the use of these materials very difficult, and in some cases their permanent preservation is doubtful unless the government speedily constructs a national archives building. For some years a number of historical institutions in the Northwest have been searching in various of these depositories for material relating to their respective fields, and have been securing photographic copies of what seemed to be of value. During the past year, however, the historical societies and departments of Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota got together and agreed to coöperate in a search of the files of the state department. The services of an expert were secured, and he is now engaged in calendaring all material in these files bearing on the history of the coöperating states. By means of this calendar each institution can select such documents as it desires to have photographed for its library. In the course of time, therefore, it is expected that the Minnesota Historical Society will secure a collection of material of great importance, especially for the territorial period, at a cost which will be small compared to what it would cost to do this without the coöperation of the other institutions.

AN APPEAL TO THE MEMBERS

Occasionally members are at a loss to know just how they can be of assistance to the society, and a few suggestions may be in order. No phase of the society's work is more important than the gathering-in of manuscript papers and records, old news-

paper files, and fugitive publications, for, once destroyed, such material can seldom be restored. There is hardly a member but knows of or can locate material of this sort and can secure its deposit with the society if he will make the effort. One difficulty seems to be a failure on the part of many to realize that the breadth of historical interests to-day gives value to almost every scrap of paper with writing on it and every printed folder or handbill. In case of doubt whether material would or would not be desirable for preservation by the society, it is always best to send it in and let us see if we can't find some point of view from which it might be of value. Probably every member of the society belongs to other societies, clubs, and institutions in the state which issue regular or occasional publications. Yearbooks, reports, even programs and announcements of such organizations should be preserved in the library, and members can help in this by sending in their own copies or having the society put on the mailing list.

Perhaps one of the most important services which a member can render to the society is to impress upon the people of the state and especially upon the members of the legislature the fact that the society is in effect a state institution; that the work which it is performing is properly a function of the state and should be supported by it; that the appropriations for the maintenance of the society are not in the nature of gifts to a private institution, but comprise rather funds set aside for the state's historical activities and administered by the society. If historical work in Minnesota is to compare favorably with that of neighboring states, a considerable increase in the annual appropriation will soon be needed. The present staff is not large enough to care properly for a rapidly growing library of 120,000 volumes, to say nothing of field work, research, and editorial work. If, as is expected, provision is made for the transfer of state archives to the new building, appropriations will be needed for their administration. The possibilities of historical work are very great at this time in Minnesota, where the pioneers are now passing off the stage. Fifty years hence much of the material existing to-day will be destroyed, and no amount of expenditure in the future can make up for the failure of the present generation to preserve the records of the past and the passing ages.

GIFTS

An ornamented hammer presented by Mr. W. E. Mowrey, through the courtesy of the treasurer of the society, Mr. E. H. Bailey, is an interesting memento. It is accompanied by a neatly lettered card containing the following explanation:

"This hammer was used on the occasion of driving 'the last spike' connecting the eastern and western sections of the main line of the Northern Pacific Railroad, at a point $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Garrison, Montana. President Henry Villard of the Railroad Co. had invited a large party of distinguished men from a number of foreign countries, as well as our own, for an excursion over the road, conveyed by four sections of a special train, starting from St. Paul on Monday, Sept. 3rd, 1883, after elaborate celebrations at St. Paul and Minneapolis, and reaching the point of connection on Saturday afternoon, Sept. 8th. After speeches by Mr. Villard, Hon. Wm. M. Evarts (chief orator), Secretary Teller, Ex President of the R. R. Co. Mr. Frederick Billings, Sir James Hannon, the German Minister Von Eisendecker, and General U. S. Grant, at 6:13 P. M., Central time, the last spike was driven by Mr. Villard and Mr. Henry C. Davis, who, it was claimed, had driven the *first* spike at Northern Pacific Junction (now Carleton), Minn. The Telegraph Dept. of the Company had connected one end of the telegraph wire to the hammer, and the other end to the spike, so that a signal would be sent simultaneously to St. Paul and Portland on each stroke. At St. Paul it was so arranged that a cannon was automatically fired in Smith Park by the first stroke of the hammer. At the conclusion of the ceremonies, the excursion trains proceeded to Spokane, Portland, Tacoma and Seattle, where enthusiastic receptions were given the party."

From Mr. John H. La Vaque of Duluth has been received a copy of *The First Minnesota*, a paper published at Berryville, Virginia, March 11, 1862, "by a detachment of the typographical fraternity of the First Minnesota Regiment," consisting of "Ed. A. Stevens, Thos. H. Pressnell, O. Nelson, Chas. S. Drake, Frank J. Mead, Julian J. Kendall, Henry W. Lindergreen." When the Union troops took possession of Berryville, March 10, the editor of the *Berryville Conservator* fled, and these men,

being familiar with the art of printing, took possession of the plant and issued a four-page sheet. About one page of new matter, intended for the entertainment of the Union soldiers, was set up, and the remainder of the paper was filled out with advertisements and a report already in type for the *Conservator*.

A large framed roster of "Officers of the United States Army and Navy, Prisoners of War, Libby Prison, Richmond, Va." has been presented by Mrs. Martha A. Gordon of St. Paul in memory of her husband Lieutenant E. Gordon, of the Eighty-first Indiana Regiment, whose name appears thereon.

Fifteen original photographs of Civil War scenes, printed about 1890 from the plates made by M. B. Brady and Alexander Gardner, "authorized government photographers," have been presented by Mr. Wilbur L. Booth of St. Paul, through the courtesy of Mr. Charles Humason of the adjutant general's office.

NEWS AND COMMENT

The first attempt of the French to establish a trading post and mission station on Minnesota soil was in 1727, when René Boucher, Sieur de la Perrière, constructed Fort Beauharnois on the west shore of Lake Pepin, near the site of Frontenac. In the following summer La Perrière returned to Montreal, leaving the establishment, apparently, in the charge of Pierre Boucher, Sieur de Boucherville. Because of the hostility of the Foxes and the doubtful attitude of the Sioux, De Boucherville decided, in September, 1728, to abandon the post. His relation of his experiences on the return journey, including a captivity among the Kickapoo, together with observations on the manners and customs of the Sioux, was published by Michel Bibaud in volume 3 of *La Bibliothèque Canadienne* (Montreal, 1826), apparently from the original manuscript. A translation of this printed transcript was included by Thwaites in volume 17 of the *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, and this translation is now reprinted in the January number of the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* under the title "Captivity of a Party of Frenchmen among Indians in the Iowa Country, 1728-1729." The reprint is edited by Jacob Van der Zee, who has supplied some new notes. Part of Thwaites's notes are quoted, part are paraphrased, but others are omitted entirely. The last two pages of the document, as printed in the *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, containing the "Observations on the Scioux," are omitted also. Nowhere in the reprint is there a reference to the original publication in French.

Some years ago a manuscript map entitled "A Topographic View of the Site of Fort St Anthony at the Confluence of the Mississippi and St Peters Rivers" was found among the papers of General Sibley. This was reproduced by Edward A. Bromley in 1904, and Mr. Upham called attention to it in his paper on "The Women and Children of Fort St. Anthony" in the *Magazine of History* for July (see *ante* p. 243). Recently another manuscript map of the same region entitled "Part of the Michigan & Missouri Territories at the Confluence of Mississippi & St

Peters Rivers, 1821," which was "Presented to Tho. Forsyth by his friend Major Marston 5th Infantry," has been located in the Forsyth Papers in the possession of the Wisconsin Historical Society. The two maps are so much alike in general features that it would appear that one was copied from the other, and they are probably the work of the same draughtsman, but each contains some features not to be found on the other. The Sibley map has no date, but has been assigned by Mr. Bromley to 1823. A photographic reproduction of the Forsyth map has been secured for the Minnesota Historical Society.

The *Third Census of the State of South Dakota Taken in the Year 1915* (1168 p.) was compiled under the direction of the state department of history of which Doane Robinson is secretary and superintendent, the actual work of enumeration being performed by the local assessors. Every inhabitant was entered in a population register and also on a card containing blanks for much useful information. As a result of this system "the state possesses a complete card index of all of her people." An unusual feature of this census was the attempt to secure data as to "ancestry," which would appear to have been fairly successful. There has been a tendency of late toward the abandoning of state censuses, due doubtless to the fact that their value has seemed disproportionate to the cost. South Dakota, however, by the application of methods of "economy and efficiency" has secured, for an expenditure of a little over five thousand dollars, a body of valuable population and agricultural statistics. To future students of history, sociology, genealogy, and agricultural economics, the data thus collected will be a veritable mine. The department of history has also issued a *Fifteenth Annual Review of the Progress of South Dakota, 1915* (11 p.).

The *Twenty-eighth Report* of the commissioner of public records of Massachusetts (8 p.) states that during 1915 the officer made "inspection of the care, custody, and protection against fire of public records of departments and offices of the Commonwealth, counties, cities, and towns" in 163 places. One town was forced by court proceedings to procure a safe for its records, and four counties and fourteen towns had part of their records "repaired, renovated or bound during the year . . . in most

instances by order of the commissioner." The use of typewriter ribbons or stamping pads other than those approved by the commissioner, of which a list is given in the *Report*, is a violation of law. The time may come when the western states will be awakened to the importance of looking after the preservation of their records.

The *Indiana Magazine of History* for December contains an account of "The Indiana Historical Commission and Plans for the Centennial" by Professor James A. Woodburn. In addition to fostering the various centennial celebrations, the commission expects to publish four volumes of historical material: two containing messages of the governors to 1851, prepared by the Indiana historical survey of Indiana University under the editorial direction of Professor Samuel B. Harding; one on early travel in Indiana, edited by Professor Harlow Lindley of the archives department of the state library; and one on the history of constitution-making in Indiana by Charles B. Kettleborough of the state legislative reference bureau.

A valuable study of "The Indian Agent in the United States before 1850" by Ruth A. Gallaher is published in the January issue of the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics*. This is announced as "the first of a series of four articles dealing with one phase of the history of Indian affairs in the United States with special reference to Iowa."

The December issue of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* contains the annual summary of "Historical Activities in the Trans-Mississippi Northwest" by Dan E. Clark of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company has issued a five-volume work (Chicago, 1915) consisting of a *History of Dakota Territory* by George W. Kingsbury, in two volumes, *South Dakota, Its History and Its People*, edited by George Martin Smith, one volume, and two volumes devoted to biographical sketches of South Dakota people. The volumes on the territory contain a considerable amount of documentary material of value, much of which is pertinent to the history of Minnesota as well as of Dakota.

A "Report on the preparation of teachers for teaching local and Nebraska history as presented at the State Normal at Kearney" was read by Professor C. N. Anderson of that institution before the Nebraska History Teachers' Association last May, and has been published by the Nebraska Legislative Reference Bureau in its *Nebraska History and Political Science Series* (1915. 15 p.). The report deals first with the reasons for teaching state and local history and then discusses materials and methods with many practical suggestions.

A useful series of bibliographies of foreign elements in the United States, compiled by Ina Ten Eyck Firkins of the University of Minnesota library, is appearing in the *Bulletin of Bibliography*. Italians, Scandinavians, Slavs, and Irish have been dealt with in the January, April, October, 1915, and January, 1916 issues, respectively.

The Indiana State Library has issued as number 4 of its *Reference Circulars* a *List of Books on Pageants* (8 p.). While confined to material in the library, including books, pamphlets, and periodical articles, it would be a useful bibliography for any one interested in the subject.

A pamphlet entitled *The New Library Building* (29 p.) contains descriptions and illustrations of the building erected at Columbia for the libraries of the University of Missouri and the State Historical Society of Missouri. The central portion of the building was recently completed at a cost of two hundred thousand dollars and was formally opened on January 6.

The January number of the *Wisconsin Alumni Magazine* contains a popular description of "The State Historical Museum" maintained by the Wisconsin Historical Society in its building at Madison. The article is by Charles E. Brown, curator of the museum.

Under the title "Indian Eloquence in a Judicial Forum" in the *Central Law Journal* for January (St. Louis), Judge John W. Willis of St. Paul presents a dramatic speech delivered by an Ojibway chief at the conclusion of a trial in which white men were convicted of murdering Indians. The trial took place in Brainerd in 1881.

Five graduate students in the University of Minnesota are engaged in research work in Minnesota history: Franklin H. Holbrook is working on the political career of Ignatius Donnelly; Charles B. Kuhlmann, on the settlement of Morrison County; Jeannette Rutledge, on the history of the liquor question in Minnesota; William R. Fieldhouse, on the history of the flour-milling industry in Minneapolis; and Wilson P. Shortridge, on the organization and the changes in boundaries of Minnesota's counties. It is expected that the results of the work of the first four will be presented as theses for the master's degree in the department of history.

The Hennepin County Territorial Pioneers' Association held its semi-annual meeting at the old Godfrey house, Richard Chute Square, Minneapolis, January 8, 1916. The presentation to the association of a pair of snowshoes which formerly were the property of Pierre Bottineau led to the relation by those present of many interesting incidents in the life of this once famous guide.

On the invitation of Captain Fred A. Bill and ex-Governor S. R. Van Sant a number of old-time rivermen gathered at the Hotel Leamington in Minneapolis on the evening of November 11, 1915, and organized the Pioneer Rivermen's Association. The object of the association is to keep alive memories of steamboat days on the Mississippi River; to this end it will collect and preserve historical data about its members.

The Old Settlers' Association of the Head of the Lakes and the Old Settlers' Benefit Association held their annual banquet at Hotel Euclid, Superior, December 8, 1915. About two hundred persons were present. The principal address of the afternoon was given by Colonel Hiram Hayes, for sixty-one years a resident of Superior, who spoke on the settlement of the head of the lakes by white men. A. R. Merritt paid tribute to "The Fathers and Mothers of the Old Settlers" for the courage with which they endured the hardships of pioneer days. In an address "In Memoriam" J. P. Johnson gave some account of the deeds of the pioneers.

MINNESOTA PUBLICATIONS

As number 151 of its series of *Bulletins* the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Minnesota has issued *Quack Grass Eradication*, by A. C. Army of the division of agronomy and farm management (University Farm, St. Paul, 1915. 82 p.). *Bulletin* 152, entitled *Farmers' Elevators in Minnesota*, by L. D. H. Weld of the division of research in agricultural economics, is a valuable contribution to the economic history of the state (24 p.). A brief historical sketch of the farmers' elevator movement is followed by a description of its present status and of methods of organization and management.

"Swamp Land Drainage with Special Reference to Minnesota" by Ben Palmer (1915. 138 p.) is number 5 of the University of Minnesota *Studies in the Social Sciences*. Special attention has been given to the legal aspects of the subject, and two chapters are devoted to the history of drainage legislation and swamp land reclamation in Minnesota.

Further Observations on Minnesota Birds; Their Economic Relations to the Agriculturist (24 p.) has recently been issued as number 35 of the *Circulars* of the state entomologist, F. L. Washburn.

The Farmer, a journal of agriculture published weekly by the Webb Publishing Company of St. Paul, issued on January 1, 1916, an *Automobile Census of Minnesota* (40 p.), based on the registration of automobiles in the office of the secretary of state up to November 1, 1915.

Laws of Minnesota Relating to the Public School System, Including the State Normal Schools and the University of Minnesota is the title of a pamphlet prepared under the direction of C. G. Schulz, superintendent of education, by W. H. Williams of the St. Paul bar (1915. 135 p.). The compilation is based on the *General Statutes*, 1913, and the later laws and amendments, and contains all the general laws relating to the public schools which are of practical use and application, arranged by subjects.

Summary of Conditions in the Minnesota Institutions under the Direction of the State Board of Control is the title of a pamphlet recently issued by the board for the fiscal year ending July 31, 1915, which should prove of interest to students of sociology (18 p.).

Volume 130 of *Minnesota Reports*, covering all cases argued and determined in the supreme court of the state from June 11 to September 10, 1915, has been issued under the direction of Henry Burleigh Wenzell, reporter (xx, 652 p.).

The state high school board has issued the *Twenty-second Annual Report* of the inspector of state high schools (80 p.), and the *Twentieth Annual Report* of the inspector of state graded schools (45 p.), each for the school year ending July 31, 1915.

The Synod of Minnesota of the Presbyterian Church has published the *Minutes* of its fifty-seventh annual meeting, which was held at the First Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, October 12-15, 1915 (119 p.). The volume contains as an appendix an interesting account of the exercises conducted on the evening of October 13 by the First Presbyterian Church in commemoration of the eightieth anniversary of its organization. This church through many changes in name and location traces its development back to the First Presbyterian Church at St. Peters, Upper Mississippi, organized at Fort Snelling on June 11, 1835, by Rev. Thomas S. Williamson—the first Protestant church in Minnesota.

The Minneapolis branch of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church has published its *Thirty-second Annual Report* for the year ending October 1, 1915 (113 p.).

The General Congregational Conference of Minnesota has issued the *Minutes* of its sixtieth annual meeting, held at Waseca, October 5-7, 1915 (104 p.).

The board of directors of the Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis has issued its *Thirty-third Annual Report* covering the year ending November 1, 1915 (72 p.).

The *Proceedings* of the forty-sixth annual assembly of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Minnesota, held at St. Paul, October 11, 1915, has appeared (64 p.).

The Minnesota Legislature of 1915 by C. J. Buell (112 p.) is a detailed examination of the work of the last general assembly, similar in character to his book on the legislature of 1913 and to the books by Lynn Haines on the legislatures of 1909 and 1911.

Axel Hayford Reed of Glencoe, Minnesota, is the compiler of a *Genealogical Record of the Reads, Reeds, the Bisbees, the Bradfords of the United States*, recently published (164 p.). About sixty pages are devoted to extracts from a diary kept by the author while serving in Company K of the Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War.

A Minnesota Christmas and Other Verses is the title of a small book of poems by May Stanley (Duluth, c. 1914. 59 p.). The volume is dedicated to the pioneers of northern Minnesota, for whom the author has embodied in verse possessing some charm the beauties of the woods and waters of the north land.

The *Irving Sketch Book* (December, 1915. 60 p.) is an attractive booklet containing stories, poems, descriptions, and compositions selected from the "regular class work of the children of the Irving School, Minneapolis."

The students of the William Hood Dunwoody Industrial Institute of Minneapolis have begun the publication of a school monthly entitled *The Artisan*. The first number is dated December, 1915.

A series of thirteen articles by Louis L. Collins under the general title "Story of the Wards," which is appearing in the Sunday issues of the *Minneapolis Journal*, forms a rather unique and valuable addition to Minneapolis bibliography. The story of the historical and industrial development peculiar to each ward is related in a succession of episodes, of incidents in the lives of the men and women prominently connected with the ward, and of glimpses into its economic, political, and social life throughout its history. The series began with an article on the

first ward in the issue of January 9, and the other wards are being covered, one each week, in numerical order.

Questions connected with the killing of Chief Little Crow and the present location of his skull received considerable attention from Minnesota papers recently. Any one interested in the subject is referred to articles in the *Litchfield Independent*, September 15 and November 3, the *St. Paul Daily News*, November 7, the *Eden Valley Journal*, November 11, the *Silver Lake Leader*, November 13, the *Minneapolis Journal*, November 14, the *Brown County Journal* of New Ulm, December 18, the *New Ulm Review*, December 22, and the *Minneapolis Tribune*, December 26. The fifty-third anniversary of the execution of the Sioux Indians at Mankato called forth in the *Mankato Review* of December 27 an interview with Thomas Hughes of that city giving an account of the event.

The *Aitkin Independent Age* published in its issues of December 25, 1915, and January 1 and 8, 1916, under the title "Old Timer Tells of Early Days," a manuscript written by Cleveland Stafford, a pioneer of Aitkin, who died December 15, 1915. Stafford's account is full of valuable data concerning the early history of northwestern Minnesota, his descriptions of early travel routes being of especial interest. He was engaged in the fur trade in early territorial days, and collected furs from the Indians of the northern part of the territory, making trips from Fond du Lac to Leech Lake as well as to Crow Wing and down the Mississippi to St. Anthony Falls. Later he hauled freight by team from Superior to Fort Ripley. He lived for a time in Minneapolis and knew many of the men prominent in its early history. In the latter part of the manuscript many incidents connected with the early history of Aitkin and the surrounding northern country are given.

The recent demolition of the first brick building erected in St. Paul—the former residence of Captain Louis Robert—to make room for a modern business structure, furnished the occasion for an interesting article by Captain Robert's daughter, Mrs. Jeanette Lamprey, entitled "Belle of Robert Street Tells about Early Days," which appeared in the *St. Paul Daily News*, November 25, 1915.

John H. McGary of Independence township, Hennepin County, has been contributing to the *Wayzata Reporter* a series of articles of historical value entitled "History in This Vicinity," in which the name and location of some of the early settlers of the western part of the county are given. The first article appeared October 28, 1915.

The *Osseo Review* devoted considerable space in its special edition of December 15, 1915, to "Osseo History in Pictures," an article describing the platting of the village on Pierre Bottineau prairie in 1856, and containing sketches of some of its pioneer citizens. In the same issue Mayor Albert P. Hechtman writes at some length on the "Origin of the word 'Osseo.'"

Under the title "Things You Should Know about the Early History of Martin County" the *Martin County Sentinel* has been publishing from time to time beginning with its issue of October 26, 1915, extracts from William H. Budd's *History of Martin County* (Fairmont, Minnesota, 1897. 124 p.).

A decision has been finally reached in the controversy which has been carried on in the newspapers of Yellow Medicine County for some weeks as to who was the first white child born in the county. It now appears from an article entitled "First White Child Again" in the *Granite Falls Journal*, November 11, 1915, that the honor belongs to Robert B. Riggs, professor of chemistry, Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, who was born May 22, 1855, at Hazlewood mission, located south of Granite Falls, founded by his father, Rev. Stephen R. Riggs, one of the early Presbyterian missionaries.

Among other articles containing items of historical interest which have appeared in recent issues of Minnesota newspapers may be noted the following: "Proctor Man Tells Romantic Story of Rainy Lake City" by C. A. Moore, the story of a municipality which sprang up quickly on the discovery of gold in the Rainy Lake district and was as quickly abandoned upon the failure of the mines to produce great wealth, in the *Duluth Herald*, November 13, 1915; "Indian Scare in Pioneer Days" by Harry Kemper of Perham, in the *Battle Lake Review*, November 25, 1915; "Old Indian Tells of Trip over Snow in 1870 with

J. J. Hill" by Joe Perrault of the White Earth Reservation, in the *Minneapolis Tribune*, November 28, 1915; "Experience of One Residing in Benton County for Fifty Years" by Mrs. Mary Skeate, in the *Sauk Rapids Sentinel*, December 9, 1915; "Was Missionary in Early Days of Minnesota" by Rev. Thomas Scotton, in the *Virginia Daily Enterprise*, January 12, 1916; "Recalls Old Days," an interesting letter from George W. Buswell, a former Winona resident, in the *Winona Herald*, January 16, 1916; "Pioneer Tells of Early Days" by W. B. Whitney of Birch Lake, in the *Melrose Beacon*, January 19, 1916; "Christmas in 1868," in which an old settler tells of his first Christmas spent in Stevens County, in the *Morris Sun*, December 23, 1915; "Was Real Pioneer," containing incidents in the life of J. H. Bliler, one of the first school teachers in Stearns County, in the *St. Cloud Journal-Press*, November 22, 1915, reprinted from the *Osakis Review*; the great blizzard of 1873 is recalled in the following articles: "Anniversary of Memorable Minnesota Blizzard of 1873" in the *Wells Mirror*, January 15, 1916; "Early Blizzards are Recalled by W. C. Gamble" in the *Martin County Sentinel*, January 14, 1916; "Lasted for Fifty-two Hours" in the *Albert Lea Tribune*, January 7, 1916.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- COLLECTIONS, volume 1. Reprint of the *Annals* of the society published 1850-1856, containing miscellaneous papers and sketches. 1902. xii, 430 p. Cloth, \$2.50
- COLLECTIONS, volume 2. Miscellaneous documents and papers. 1860-1867. 294 p. Cloth, \$2.50
- COLLECTIONS, volume 3. Miscellaneous papers, sketches, and memoirs. 1870-1880. viii, 433 p. Cloth, \$2.50
- COLLECTIONS, volume 4. *History of the City of St. Paul and County of Ramsey, Minnesota*, by J. Fletcher Williams. 1876. 475 p. Cloth, \$3.50
- COLLECTIONS, volume 5. *History of the Ojibway Nation*, by William W. Warren. 1885. 535 p. Cloth, \$3.50
- COLLECTIONS, volume 6. Miscellaneous papers, sketches, and memoirs. 1887-1894. iv, 556 p. Cloth, \$2.50
- COLLECTIONS, volume 7. *The Mississippi River and Its Source*, by J. V. Brower. 1893. xv, 360 p. Cloth, \$2.50
- COLLECTIONS, volume 8. Miscellaneous papers, sketches, and memoirs. 1895-1898. xii, 542 p. Cloth, \$2.50
- COLLECTIONS, volume 9. Miscellaneous papers, sketches, and memoirs. 1901. xiv, 694 p. Cloth, \$2.50
- COLLECTIONS, volume 10. Miscellaneous papers, sketches, and memoirs. 1905. xvi, viii, 938 p. in 2 parts. Cloth, \$5.00
- COLLECTIONS, volume 11. *Itasca State Park, an illustrated History*, by J. V. Brower. 1905. 285 p. Cloth, \$2.50
- COLLECTIONS, volume 12. Miscellaneous papers, sketches, and memoirs. 1909. xx, 827 p. Cloth, \$2.50
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